

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 134

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

FOR THE PURPOSE OF REQUESTING APPROPRIATE ACTION BY THE CONGRESS, EITHER ACTING BY CONSENT OF TWO-THIRDS OF BOTH HOUSES OR, UPON THE APPLICATION OF THE LEGISLATURES OF TWO-THIRDS OF THE SEVERAL STATES, CALLING AN ARTICLE V CONVENTION TO PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION TO REQUIRE, WITH CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS, THAT THE TOTAL OF ALL FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS MAY NOT EXCEED THE TOTAL OF ALL ESTIMATED FEDERAL REVENUES IN ANY FISCAL YEAR TOGETHER WITH ANY RELATED AND APPROPRIATE FISCAL RESTRAINTS.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, with each passing year this nation becomes more deeply in debt as its expenditures grossly and repeatedly exceed available revenues, so that the total debt now exceeds seventeen trillion dollars; and

WHEREAS, the annual federal budget continually demonstrates an unwillingness or inability of both the legislative and executive branches of the federal government to curtail spending to conform to available revenues; and

WHEREAS, unified budgets do not reflect actual spending because of the exclusion of special outlays that are not included in the budget nor subject to the legal public debt limit; and

WHEREAS, knowledgeable planning, fiscal prudence and plain good sense require that the budget reflect all federal spending and be in balance; and

WHEREAS, believing that fiscal irresponsibility at the federal level, with the inflation that results from this policy, is the greatest threat that faces our nation, we firmly believe that constitutional restraint is necessary to bring the fiscal discipline needed to restore financial responsibility; and

WHEREAS, under Article V of the Constitution of the United States, amendments to the Constitution of the United States may be proposed by the Congress whenever two-thirds of both houses deem it necessary; or, on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, the Congress shall call a Constitutional Convention for proposing amendments. We believe such action vital.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-second Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United States, the Legislature of the State of Idaho petitions the Congress of the United States of America, at its session, to call a convention of the states limited to proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States requiring that, in the absence of a national emergency, the total of all federal appropriations made by the Congress for any fiscal year may not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenues for that fiscal year, together with any related and appropriate fiscal restraints.

1       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this application is to be considered as cov-  
2       ering the balanced budget amendment language of the presently outstanding  
3       balanced budget applications from other states, including, but not limited  
4       to, previously adopted applications from Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Col-  
5       orado, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Mississippi,  
6       Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina,  
7       Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas; and this application shall be aggregated with  
8       those applications for the purpose of attaining the two-thirds of states  
9       necessary to require the calling of a convention for proposing a balanced  
10      budget amendment, but shall not be aggregated with any applications on any  
11      other subject; and

12      BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this application constitutes a continuing  
13      application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United  
14      States until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the several states  
15      have made applications on the same subject. It supersedes all previous ap-  
16      plications by this Legislature on the same subject; and

17      BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is  
18      hereby directed to forward copies of this resolution to the Secretary of  
19      State and presiding officers of both houses of the legislatures of each of  
20      the other states in the union, the Speaker of the United States House of Rep-  
21      resentatives, the President of the United States Senate, and the members of  
22      the Congress of the United States representing the State of Idaho.